Memorandum seeking assistance from NCCF. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team has visited the State for assessment of the situation and requirements of Central assistance. Further action will be taken in accordance with the existing procedure on receipt of Central Team's Report.

Rehabilitation package to farmers

†1808. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering seriously over giving a rehabilitation package to farmers for preventing them from committing suicide;

(b) if so, the salient features of this rehabilitation package; and

(c) whether Government are considering the fact that leniency should be adopted in connection with the provisions of arrest and attachment of the farmers who are unable to pay the loans in order to relieve them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has decided to launch a special rehabilitation package to mitigate the distress of farmers in 31 Districts in the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Kerala where the incidence of suicide by farmers have been very high. The package includes both immediate and medium term measures. It aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to apriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services, improved marketing facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services, improved marketing facilities and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries, etc. For alleviating the hardships caused to debt stressed families of farmers in the affected districts, *ex-gratia* assistance from Prime Ministers National Relief Fund will also be provided.

(c) The State Government have been advised to review the State Laws for removal of the provision of arrest/detention of farmers and to strengthen other alternatives for the recovery of loans from farmers.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.